A true

NARRATIVE

Of a ſad and lamentable

FIRE

Which happened on *Sunday*, being the 27*th* of this Inſtant *January*,

IN

Temple Lane,

LONDON:

Which conſumed almoſt all the middle, and great part of the outward *Temple*.

WITH

A Narration of ſeveral Accidents that happened there.

With Allowance.

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AMONG all the Elements Heaven created for the extraordinary uſe and profitable ſupporture of the life of Man, there is none ſo ſubtile, ſwift in motion, and conſuming, as that Fire, whoſe inevitable force has too

often been experienced in the ruine and desolation of Cities, Towns, Castles, Churches, and the like, whose flinty VValls in vain contend against its rage; the strongest Bull-works that the Art of man can form, are not of force sufficient to repell those flames, nor hold a siege against their furious onset: the very dread of its impetuous violence o're-aws the sense, and puzles needful art; especially when unexpected it rebels and starts from its obedience and more kindly service due to Man; and fills the streets with doleful Out-cries, and Allarms all the sleepy Rounds, when drowsie Mortals, that securely did repose, and dream'd of no such Ills, start half amazed from their disturbed slumbers, and with speed desert their tottering Fabricks, to secure their Lives, and keep them safe from the approaching flames, whose thirsty jaws still feed on ruine, and with crackling Menaces pursue the scorched Fuel, nor spare they ought that obvious stand to their devouring rage; and sure it is most sad if we consider, that people who but some few hours before had Houses, Goods, and all things necessary at command, and in so short a time be dispossessed of all, and forc'd to seek them Habitations where they may; as hath been frequently confirmed in almost all the dreadful Conflagrations that have happened in this our Land, as in the late most lamentable devastation of our great Metropolis, and many other Fiers since of smaller note; but among all the baleful accidents of that most fatal kind, this so lately happening, whereof I now shall treat, for furiousness and shortness of continuance, may equal any of former times: especially if we consider what vast substantial Buildings it consumed: and thus it happened: On *Sunday* Night, the 27*th* of *January*, between eleven and twelve, the VVind being strong at North

North North East, and so exceeding sharp and dry, the like whereof has not of late been known, so that the *Thames* was almost frozen over, being then at low VVater; the Porter, being at the Gate, as his usual manner is, to wait for some Gentlmen of that Inns of Court, I mean the middle *Temple*, espide a glimmering of light, which still increasing greater, till at last he could perceive it to be a perfect Fire, whereat he gave the usual Allarm, but before the Engines could be brought, or help sufficient came, it got to such a vehement head, and being much augmented by blustring VVinds, its ravenous Flames drove on apace; in the mean while his Grace the Duke of *Monmouth*, and my Lord of *Craven*, my Lord *Duross*, and others of the Nobility came to give necessary Orders for the preservation of several places of importance, as the Outward and Middle *Temples* Halls, and likewise the Middle *Temple* Church, and for the securing it from incroaching towards *Fleet-street*, and the *Strand*, which it so vehemently endeavour'd, that had not his Grace the Duke of *Monmouth* given order to put such effectual means in execution, it had surely done; the which to prevent, he commanded the Houses before it to be blown up, and went himself from place to place, with his Attendants, and often times hazarded his Person by the blowing up houses, the falls of Tyles and Tymber, to give necessary orders where most need required; and by his Graces

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Example the People were ſo animated, that they unanimouſly laboured for the ſuppreſſion of it; but the Froſt being ſo vehement, they were much troubled to get VVater; to ſupply which, and not ſlip any opportunity, in the farther *Temple* they ſupplyed the Engin with Bear for many hours, the VVind ſtill whirling the Flame about, whoſe Sheets of Fire were obſerved to fly a vaſt way, and the big Sparks of Fire carried with the VVind quite croſs the *Thames*. After ſome time his Grace ſent for more Engineers, and commanded them to blow up round the Fire, whilſt my Lord of *Craven* and my Lord Mayor, with the two Sheriffs, noted the Houſes deſigned for that purpoſe, and uſed their utmoſt dilligence. There were many of His Majeſties Foot-guards, who behaved themſelves very bravely, and many times endangered their Lives; and likewiſe the Orange-coloured Train-Band-Men, who by my Lord Mayors order attended to ſee that no Pillagers went away with Peoples Goods, under pretence of helping them, as many times baſe Fellows have done at ſuch calamitous opportunities. After ſome ſearch they found the Pipes in *Fleet-ſtreet*, and cut them, and turned the Water down; but it froze as faſt as it came, and often ſtopped the Spouts of the Engines; but after the blowing up of about thirty two houſes or Tenements, the Fire began to decline, many of the Paper Buildings that firſt took Fire being conſumed, and a great ſtack of Chimnies and a double Brick VVall deſending to the VVaterſide ſtay-

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ed it that way, and the people on the other ſides, drawing away the blown up Timber before the Fire: after the greedy flame had for eight hours devour'd without intermiſſion, and all the Fuel ſpent it could come at; having conſumed more than fifty houſes, beſides what was blown up and beaten down, was quenched and brought under, to the great joy and ſatisfaction of all the Inhabitants round about, the which was effected the next morning about ſix or ſeven of the Clock. Thanks to the Almighty be for ever rendered.

It began in *Temple-Lane*, at a Lawyers Chamber, about the middle of the Lane; but by what means it happned is not as yet certainly known. The Middle *Temple* received moſt dammage, five Courts therein being almoſt conſumed, and the Church much ſhattered by the blows of Powder, and part of the Hall burnt. There were three killed, and ſix wounded; and it is ſuppoſed there may be more not yet found. *John Atkins*, a Glaſier, was the firſt that was killed, by the fall of a Chimney; *James Sleter*, a Seaman, killed by a piece of Timber blown from a Houſe before the Church; *George Callis*, a Labourer, killed by the fall of Timber; and my Lord of *Dorſet*, by hazarding his Perſon for the Publique good, was very much hurt by a piece of Timber that was ſhattered from a Houſe: *William Gregory* had his Leg broke, and another his Shoulder,

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by their too resolute adventuring; although at every blowing the warning was given by beating of a Drum three distinct times. The places damaged by the Fire were, *Brick-Court*, *Hare-Court*, *Elms-Court*, *Outward-Temple Court*, *Vine-Court*, *Pump-Court*, and others. Now one may hope these Calamities will be a Caution, and Warning, to all careless People, to be more mindful, and not by neglect to ruine themselves and others.

FINIS.